

REMARKS

The final Office Action of November 20, 2006, has been received and reviewed.

Claims 25-32 and 64-66 are currently pending and under consideration in the above-referenced application. Of these, claims 25-32 have been allowed, and claim 66 recites allowable subject matter. A formal objection has been raised against claim 29, while claims 64 and 65 stand rejected.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

The Office has objected to the inclusion of “silicon nitride” in claim 29, stating that “the seed layer cannot consist of silicon nitride.” Final Office Action, page 2.

It is respectfully submitted that the seed layer recited in claim 29 may comprise silicon nitride. As indicated at paragraph [0033] of the as-filed specification, the seed layer for a conductive material may include a conductive material or a variety of other materials, including materials, such as silicon nitride, that are not electrically conductive.

As it is apparent from the description provided in the above-referenced application that materials such as silicon nitride may be used as a seed layer, withdrawal of the objection to claim 29 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 64 and 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for being drawn to subject matter that is allegedly anticipated by the subject matter described in U.S. Publication 2003/0168342 of Chakravorty et al. (hereinafter “Chakravorty”).

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element, as set forth in the claim, is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single reference which qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

It has been asserted that the “conductive paste” mentioned in paragraph [0046] of Chakrovarty is the same as “solder paste.” It is respectfully noted that the only description that accompanies the term “conductive paste” is a statement that “the conductive paste is cured.” Paragraph [0046]. Chakrovarty does not provide any guidance as to the meaning of the term “cure,” as used therein. It is noted, however, that the term “cure” refers to an active chemical process by which hardening is effected, such as in “curing” (or vulcanizing) rubber, “curing” resins, “curing” cement, etc. It is apparent from the widely accepted meanings of the term “cure” that it does not apply to situations where a molten material, such as solder, hardens by cooling. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that solder is not a “conductive paste” that is “cured” As such, it is respectfully submitted that Chakrovarty lacks any express or inherent description that the second electrode 335 of the via 305 described therein may comprise solder.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Chakrovarty does not anticipate each and every element of independent claim 64, as would be required to maintain the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of that claim.

Claim 65 is allowable, among other reasons, for depending directly from independent claim 64, which is allowable.

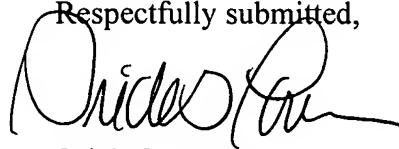
Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 25-32 and the indication that claim 66 recites allowable subject matter are gratefully acknowledged. The subject matter recited in claim 66 has not been incorporated into an independent claim, as claim 64, from which claim 66 depends, is believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 25-32 and 64-66 is allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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